San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools

Ted Alejandre, County Superintendent

Binational Parent Leadership Institute

BPLI

Bi-National Parent Leadership Institute

HACU 31st Annual Conference

Transforming lives through education

What is the Bi-National Parent Leadership Institute?

The Bi-National Parent Leadership Institute (or BPLI) is a unique parent engagement leadership model that provides a small group of parents with institutional leadership trainings and effective parent engagement strategies to help become change agents in service delivery to their families and communities.

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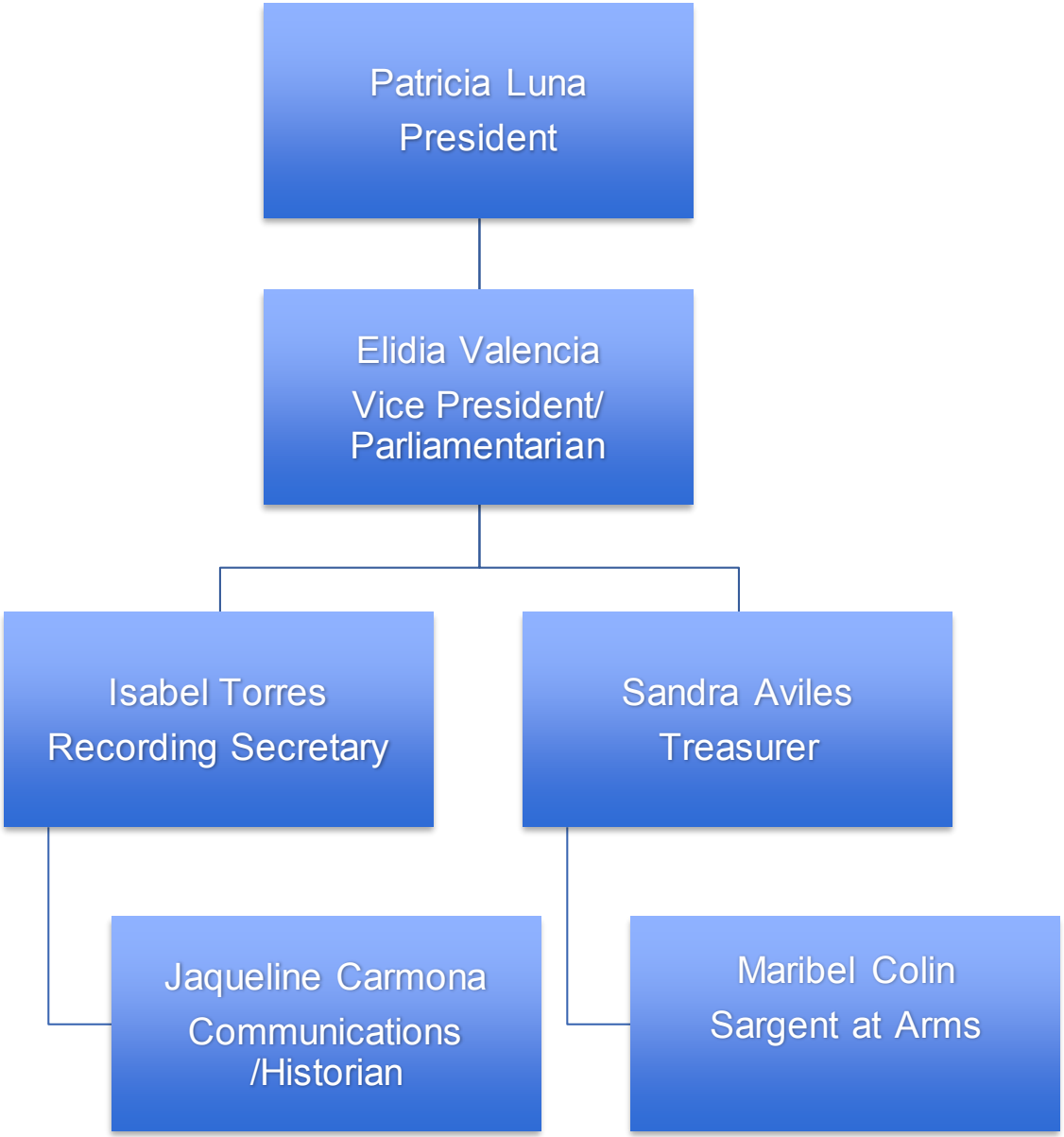
Purpose of BPLI

- Establish a cadre of advanced parent engagement mechanism in the Inland Empire that will provide parents with instructional leadership trainings to become effective change agents in service delivery for their families.
- Develop processes for parents to create a leadership for parent voice, co-empowerment, advocacy and impact in schools and communities at local, regional, state and national levels.
- Establish institutional capacity strategies that will meaningfully engage parents to ensure successful outcomes for students and families.

BPLI Organizational Structure



BPLI Officers/Parent Leaders

- Patricia Luna, President – p.lunabpli@gmail.com
- Elidia Valencia, Vice President/Parliamentarian – e.valenciabpli@gmail.com
- Isabel Torres, Recording Secretary – i.torresbpli@gmail.com
- Sandra Aviles, Treasurer – s.avilesbpli@gmail.com
- Jaqueline Carmona, Communications/Historian – j.carmonabpli@gmail.com
- Maribel Colin, Sargent at Arms – m.colinbpli@gmail.com

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Organizational Structure Executive Advisory Board

Dr. Enrique Murrillo
California State University San Bernardino,

Tammy Garcia-Chiang
Consulate of Mexico in San Bernardino

Linda Miranda
San Bernardino County
Superintendent of Schools

This work is supported and guided by all three executive advisory board partners in developing the fundamental structure of this model.

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
Ted Alejandre, County Superintendent

LEAD Latino Education & Advocacy Days
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SAN BERNARDINO

SRE
Consulado de Carrera de México en San Bernardino

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Benefits of BPLI

- **Leadership Opportunities**
- **Collaborations with county, state and federal agencies and educational institutions.**
- **Conferences (local, state and federal)**
- **Educational and Institutional Trainings**
  - Conflict Management
  - Financial Literacy
  - Governmental Affairs/Public Policy & Protocols
  - Public Speaking
  - Technology
  - Trainer of Trainer
  - Monthly Membership Meetings
- **Networking Opportunities**

Capacity Building Internal-Policy/Procedure

- Parent Engagement Leadership
- Leadership Styles (Strengths Finder)
- Navigating Political Climates
- Cultural Proficiency
- Financial Literacy

Capacity Building External-Collaborations

- ***In partnership with Mexican Consulate***
  - Mexican Consulate Education Advisory Committee

- ***In partnership with CSU San Bernardino***
  - BPLI Parent Conference (LEAD)
  - Feria Educativa
  - DREAMERS Resource Center

- ***In partnership with San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools***
  - Parent Advocacy Trainings
  - 12 Powers of Family Business
  - Family Engagement Network & Family Leadership Academy
  - CABE Regional & State Conference
  - Project INSPIRE

Inspiration!

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Elidia Valencia
BPLI Vice-President

Why did you get involved in your child's education?

I got involved in the education of my children four months after arriving from Mexico in 2004. I was concerned because I was in a country with an educational system I did not know and my son had a speech delay problem.

The communication with my son's teachers was of great help, and I took some parenting classes called INSPIRE. I learned about the education system and the importance of getting involved in leadership committees. So I got more involved and became a member of BPLI.

What impact has your involvement had on your children?

My daughter Nayeli was reclassified in 10th grade. She became the president of the Latino club and graduated as an honors student. She attended community college as she qualified as an AB 540 student. I can proudly say that achievement was a team effort thanks to the guidance of the parent classes and my engagement.

My son Miguel Angel took speech therapy until his 2nd grade when he received principal's honor roll and with the support of his teacher and constant team work, he reclassified from English Learners program in the 5th grade.

Where are your children today?

Today my daughter Nayeli is in her last semester of Master's Degree at Cal State San Bernardino. She works as an interpreter in the same district where she went to school. She gives back to the community by volunteering and interpreting for educational events through BPLI and other partners.

My son Miguel Angel is in the 11th grade and is taking college level AP classes. He also gives back to his community by volunteering in BPLI community events and other events.

Isabel Torres
Secretary

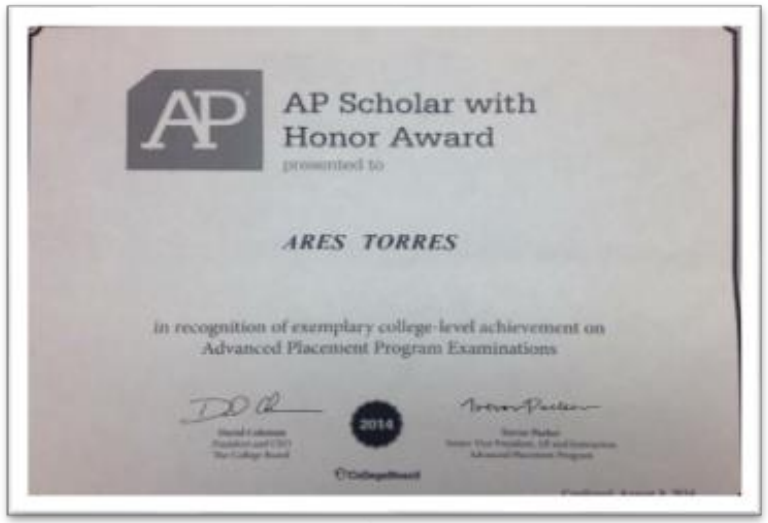
Why did you get involved in your child's education?

We arrived in this country with two English learners, my 5th grade daughter and my 2nd grade son, and my little one with special needs. My eldest daughter soon required that I make decisions in her education, but unfortunately, my lack of knowledge of our complex system limited her in her opportunities to go directly to a university.

Isabel Torres
Secretary

What impact has your involvement had on your children?

Thanks to my involvement, I was able to decide on the right programs to ensure that my children reached college.
My children know that their final goal is to finish a career that makes them happy every day.



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Isabel Torres
Secretary

Where are your children today?

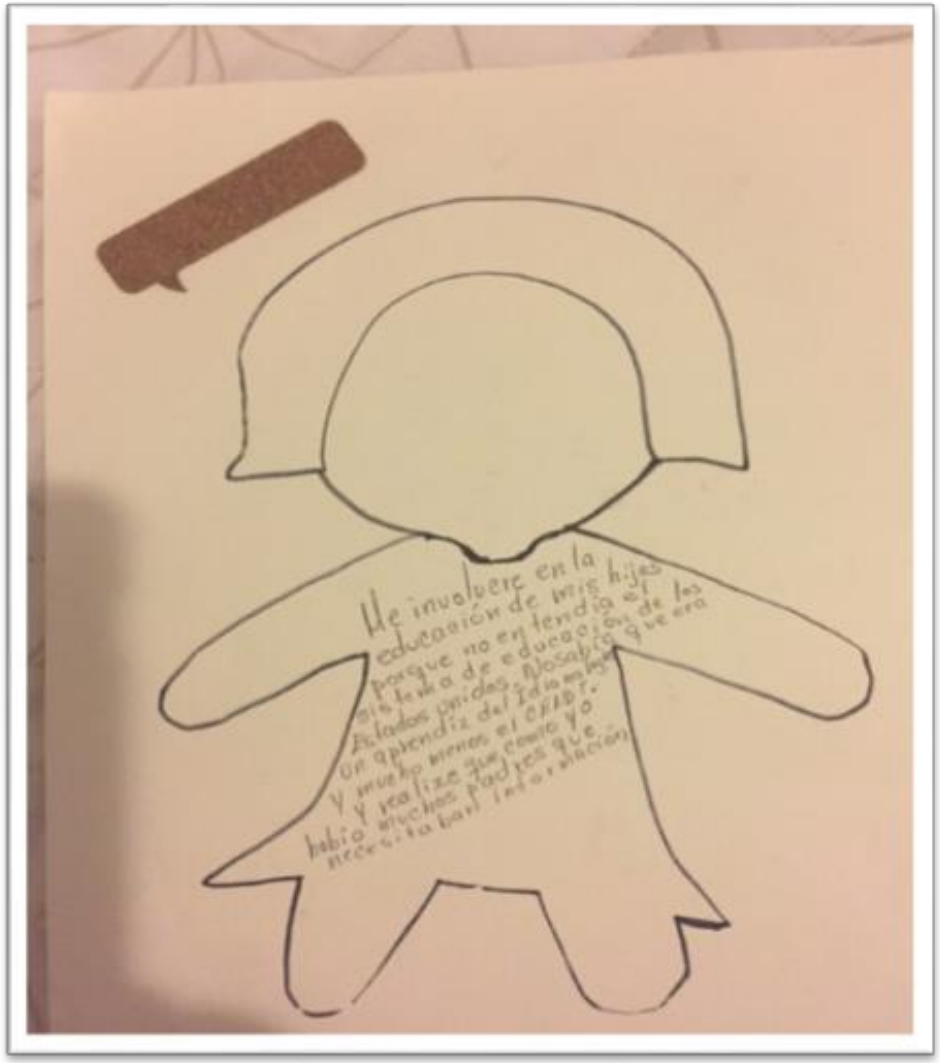
My daughter has finished four associates degrees and will soon transfer to a university to finish her bachelor of fine arts.

My son is in his second year at UCR studying for a bachelor of science in biochemistry. His goal is to become a surgeon.

My youngest son is in eighth grade and has completed his studies since kindergarten. His dream is also to reach the university.

Patricia Luna
BPLI President

Why did you get involved in your child's education?



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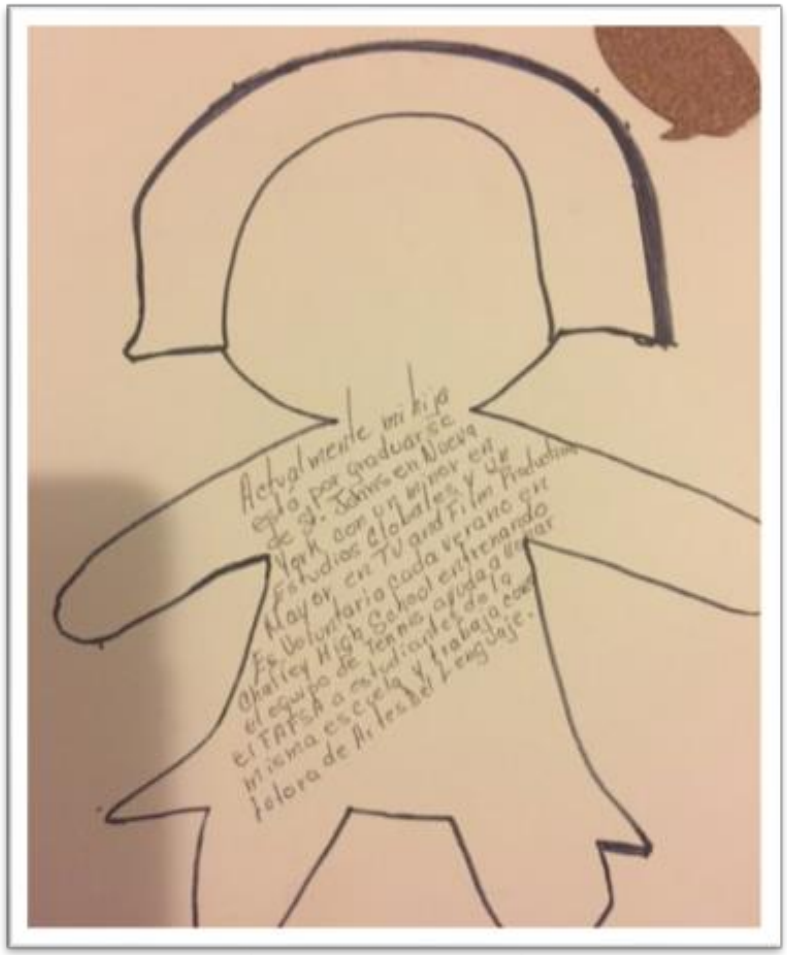
Patricia Luna
BPLI President

What impact has your involvement had on your children?

Patricia Luna
BPLI President

Where are your children today?



FRUIT OF THE LABOR

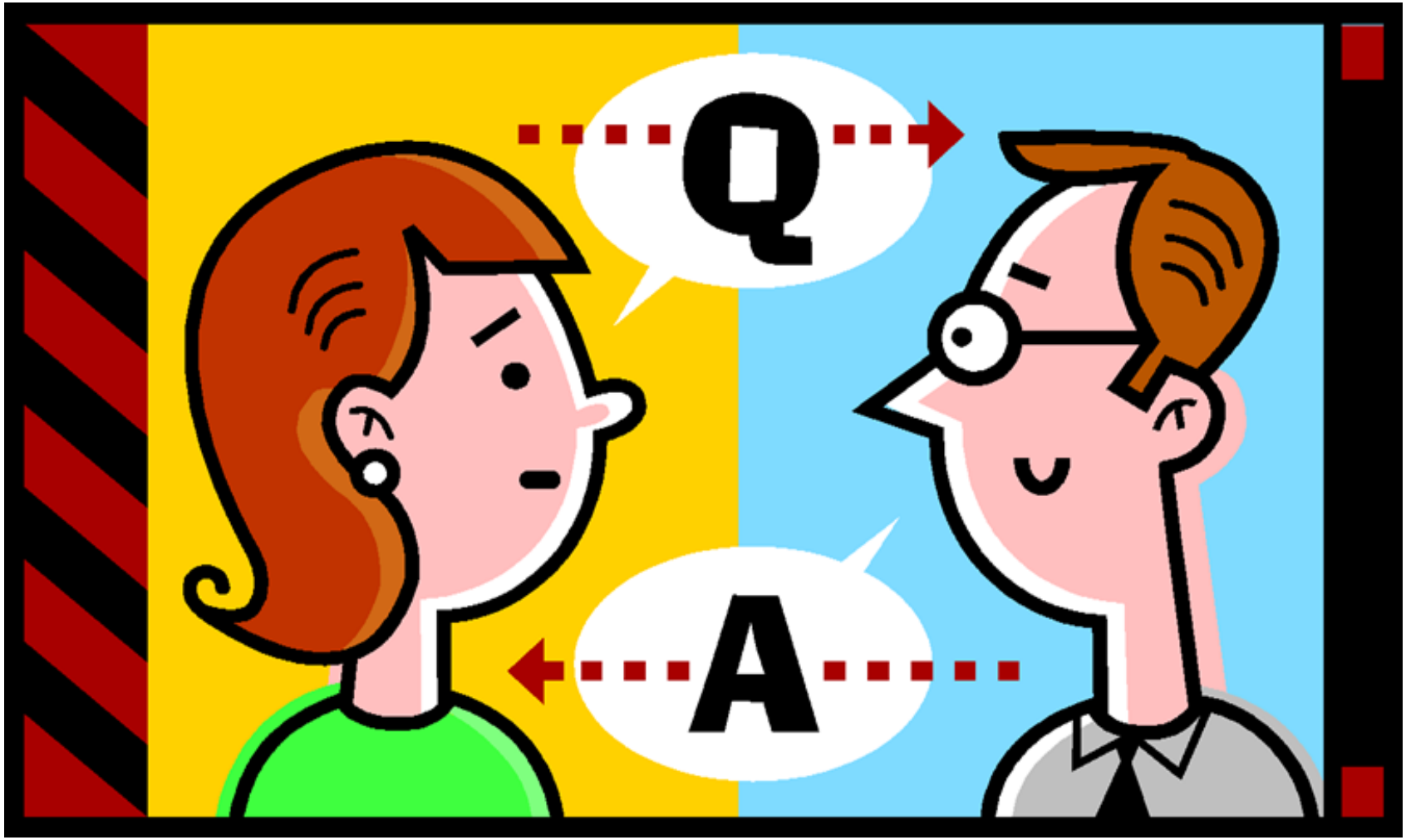
Challenges/Growing Pains

- Personal differences and leadership styles
- Not knowing the educational and political systems
- Legal status of parents (fear)
- Language barriers
- Lack of school staff not prepared for family engagement or understanding that parents bring assets such as teamwork and organizational skills to help build academic achievement
- Educational institutions not truly building leadership capacity to engage parents and only providing informational sessions
- School leadership not respecting the suggestions or decisions made by parents and stakeholders

Solutions to Challenges

- Knowing how to navigate our complex educational system
- Understanding the value of working in partnerships
- Coordinating capacity building opportunities for staff and parents (Dual Capacity)
- Maintaining open lines of communication between district leaders, parents and community members
- Cultural Proficiency trainings for all educational stakeholders
- Availability of bilingual staff and individuals who can communicate with our parents
- Creating and maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for ALL stakeholders
- Creating systemic and consistent processes and procedures.
- WE ALL AGREE TO LEAVE OUR EGOS AT THE DOOR! DON'T PERSONALIZE!!

Questions???



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https://coe.csusb.edu/lead/events/binational-parent-leadership-institute

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San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools

Ted Alejandre, County Superintendent

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